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PRESS RELEASE

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NEWS

For Immediate Use

New Jersey's 2006 Peach Crop Production Unchanged from Previous Year

The 2006 Garden State peach crop is estimated at 35,000 tons, unchanged from the previous year but up 8 percent from 2004. Fruit set was rated good to excellent for this year's crop. However, late June thunderstorms caused some fruit loss around the state. Peaches are sizing well and prospects are currently good.

The July 2006 forecast of U.S. Freestone peach production is 678,300 tons, down 3 percent from 2005 and 12 percent below two years ago. Five of the top ten peach producing states expect declines or remained unchanged in production compared to last year, while the other 5 states expect an increase in their production. Starting in 2004, the National Agricultural Statistics Service changed the production unit that peaches are reported in from million pounds to tons.

Peaches, Total Production by State, 2004-2005 and Forecasted July 1, 2006

State	Ranking based on 2006	Total Production			
		2004	2005	2006	% Change from 2005
		- Tons -			
California 1/	1	436,000	385,000	380,000	(1)
South Carolina	2	70,000	75,000	60,000	(20)
Georgia	3	52,500	40,000	42,000	5
New Jersey	4	32,500	35,000	35,000	NC
Pennsylvania	5	23,000	26,600	29,500	11
Washington	6	21,500	20,900	21,500	3
Michigan	7	18,700	14,000	13,500	(4)
Illinois	8	10,600	11,200	11,500	3
Colorado	9	13,000	12,000	11,000	(8)
Idaho	10	9,000	8,000	9,000	13
United States	--	768,110	700,550	678,300	(3)

1/ Freestone variety